



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND  
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

**ALL SIX DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN FEDERAL  
PROSECUTION OF "THA FAM"**

**Re: United States v. Angel Rosario, Angel Melendez, Angel Arroyo, Robert King, Luis Clark, and Donna Whittington**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, DEA Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, and Nashua Police Chief Timothy Hefferan announced the conclusion of the federal prosecution of the following members and associates of the Nashua-based "crack" cocaine distribution ring known as "Tha Fam."

- **Angel L. ROSARIO, a/k/a "Macho,"** dob 09/03/66, of Nashua;
- **Angel MELENDEZ, a/k/a "Bebe,"** dob 02/21/85, of Nashua;
- **Lewis CLARK, a/k/a "L," a/k/a "L Boogie,"** dob 01/11/78, of Nashua;
- **Rob KING, a/k/a "Black," a/k/a "Black Rob,"** dob 06/02/74, of Nashua;
- **Angel ARROYO,** dob 02/02/84, of Nashua; and
- **Donna WHITTINGTON, a/k/a Donna HARTCOPF,** dob 07/08/56, of Nashua.

Each of the six defendants appeared in U.S. District Court, waived the right to be indicted by a grand jury, and entered guilty pleas to informations charging them with distributing crack cocaine in Nashua during 2002 and 2003.

On September 2, 2004, U.S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro sentenced ROSARIO to a 78 month (6 ½ years) term of imprisonment followed by a 5-year period of supervised release during which his behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On June 25, 2004, U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. sentenced MELENDEZ to a 60 month (5 year) term of imprisonment followed by a 4 year period of supervised release during which his behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On June 30, 2004, Judge DiClerico sentenced CLARK to a 37 month (approximately 3 year) term of imprisonment followed by a 3 year period of supervised release during which his behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On June 16, 2004, U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe sentenced ARROYO to an 18 month term of imprisonment followed by a 3 year period of supervised release during which his behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On July 1, 2004, Judge DiClerico sentenced KING to a 1 year term of imprisonment followed by a 6 year period of supervised release during which his behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On June 17, 2004, Judge McAuliffe sentenced WHITTINGTON to a 6 month term of house arrest followed by a 3 year period of probation release during which her behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

According to an affidavit filed in support of a criminal complaint issued by U.S. Magistrate Judge James R. Muirhead on November 5, 2003, ROSARIO, MELENDEZ, CLARK, KING, and ARROYO were members of "Tha Fam," a group of individuals living in Nashua bearing tattoos reading "THA FAM" or "FAM 4 LIFE" who engaged in the street level distribution of crack cocaine in Nashua during 2002 and 2003. The affidavit states that photographs have been seized pursuant to several search warrants issued by the Nashua District Court depicting various members of "Tha Fam" exhibiting their "FAM" tattoos and flashing "gang signs" with their hands. The affidavit states that they conspired to distribute cocaine base, also known as "crack cocaine," in Nashua between 2000 and 2003.

The affidavit further states that Alberto Allende, aka "Machito," who was convicted in the U.S. District Court of crack distribution on September 30, 2002, was also a member of the group.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level crack dealers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire's other larger cities. The investigation and prosecution of "Tha Fam" is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in combating the disastrous impact of crack cocaine on our urban neighborhoods and their residents. This office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

The prosecution resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Nashua Police Department's Narcotics Intelligence Division and DEA's Northern New England HIDTA Task Force. The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF"), and Special Assistant United States Attorney Charles Keefe of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, and formerly of the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office in Nashua.